

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123395

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, RO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RCSA VISIT

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 3399
---- (B) STATE 53685

1. ROMANIAN PLANS FOR ASTRONAUT TRAINING, REPORTED
REFERENCE (A), GROSSLY CONTRARY TO NASA DISCUSSIONS WITH
MANDESCU FEBRUARY 23, REPORTED REFERENCE (B). NASA MADE IT
ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THEN THERE WAS NO FORESEEABLE POSSIBILITY
FOR FOREIGN PILOT-ASTRONAUT ON SHUTTLE.

2. POSSIBILITY ACTUALLY MADE REPEATEDLY CLEAR TO MANDESCU
IS THAT FOREIGN SCIENTISTS OR TECHNICIANS MAY FLY AS
PAYLOAD SPECIALISTS BUT AT PRESENT ONLY IN CONJUNCTION
APPROVED COOPERATIVE OR COMMERCIAL PAYLOADS REQUIRING
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ON-BOARD PRESENCE OF SUCH SCIENTIST OR TECHNICIAN.

3. NASA HAS SO FAR RECEIVED TWO ROMANIAN FLIGHT EXPERI-
MENT PROPOSALS FOR SHUTTLE/SPACELAB. NEITHER CALLS FOR
PRESENCE OF ROMANIAN SCIENTIST OR TECHNICIAN.

4. NEXT APPROPRIATE STEP FOR ROMANIA IS CONCRETE SCIEN-

TIFIC PROPOSALS WARRANTING ACCOMMODATION AND PRESENCE OF

PAYLOAD SPECIALIST. NASA PREPARED REVIEW VALID SCIENTIFIC
PROPOSALS WITH SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE.

5. NASA HAS IN ANY EVENT NOT YET SET UP TRAINING PROGRAM
FOR PAYLOAD SPECIALISTS. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, VISIT OF
INCIPIENT ROMANIAN TRAINING STAFF NOT APPROPRIATE.

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Message Attributes

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